"those enduring matinee idols"

FOR THE SERIAL LOVERS WHO STILL REMEMBER SATURDAY MATINEES

AUGUST — SEPTEMBER 1970
VOLUME 1 - CHAPTER 6

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Six is the maximum number of serials in which any one actress made an appearance in a principal role — and three actresses shared the distinction. TEMI's hat is tipped in the direction of: Lucile Browne, Jean Rogers and Linda Stirling.

Coincidently, they had several things in common.

They achieved serial *stardom* in alphabetical order: Browne, Rogers and Stirling.

Each reigned as a serial queen for no more/no less than four years: 1931-1934; 1935-1938; 1944-1947.

Each was an attractive queen: Browne was crowned Miss Florida in '25; Rogers won a beauty contest in New England; and, Stirling adorned many a cover of leading women's magazines — and ads.

On the other hand, Miss Browne *never* appeared in a serial with a science-fiction theme; Miss Rogers *never* appeared in a Western; and, Miss Stirling *did* appear in serials using both themes.

For the record, here's a listing of their serials:

Lucile Browne: *Danger Island* ('31); *Battling with Buffalo Bill* ('31); *Air Mail Mystery* ('32); *Last of the Mohicans* ('32); *Mystery Squadron* ('33); *Law of the Wild* ('34). First three releases were for Universal and the latter three for Mascot.

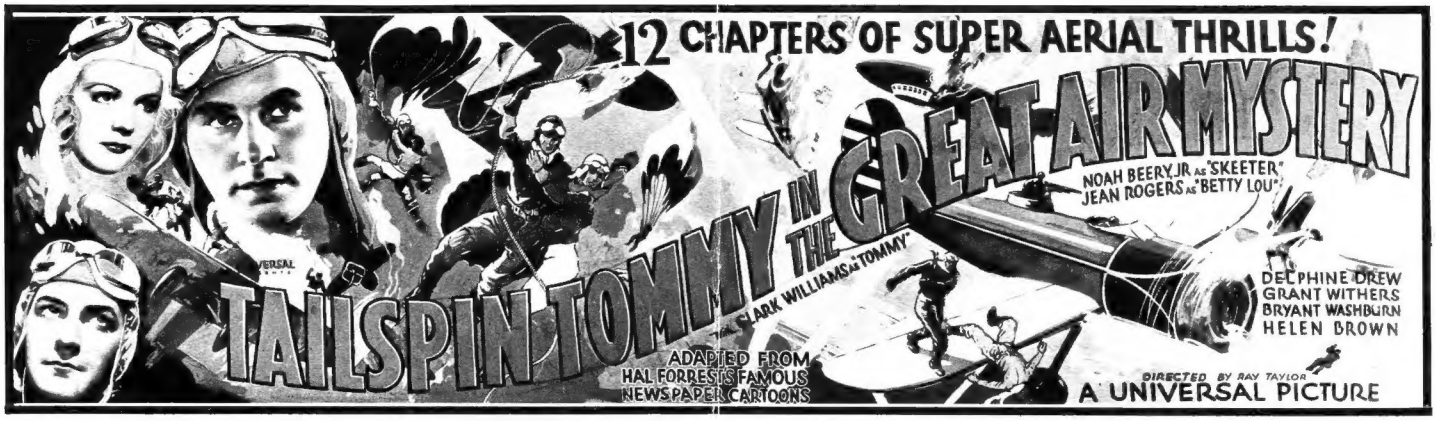
Jean Rogers: *Tailspin Tommy in the Great Air Mystery* ('35); *Adv. of Frank Merriwell* ('36); *Flash Gordon* ('36); *Ace Drummond* ('36); *Secret Agent X-9* ('37); *Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars* ('38). All were Universal serials.

Linda Stirling: *Tiger Woman* ('44); *Zorro's Black Whip* ('44); *Manhunt of Mystery Island* ('45); *Purple Monster Strikes* ('45); *Crimson Ghost* ('47); *Jesse James Rides Again* ('47). All Republic.

Lucile Browne — menaced by *The Black Ace* in MYSTERY SQUADRON. She was also popular because of her "beautiful" scream.

Frank Shannon as *Dr. Zarkov*; Larry Crabbe as FLASH GORDON; Jean Rogers as *Dale Arden*; and Charles Middleton as *Emperor Ming*.

Linda Stirling in the clutches of THE CRIMSON GHOST, as well as Clayton Moore (this time a villain, but usually a hero).



Kudos to JIM STRINGHAM for writing the following synopsis, and furnishing the pic below (as well as others in this chapter of TEMI) of Noah Beery, Jr. (left) and Clark Williams.

Aviation serials were a regular part of Universal's output in the early and mid thirties. One, TAILSPIN TOMMY ('34) seemed to owe its triumph more to its association with the popular newspaper strip of the period than to the rather ordinary story of airline rivalry presented. But successful it was, so a sequel quickly appeared.

TAILSPIN TOMMY IN THE GREAT AIR MYSTERY (Universal's *last* serial in '35) could stand on its own feet. The town of Littleville was wisely left behind in the first chapter as Tommy, Skeeter, and Betty Lou flew to the Central American island of Nazil. Here the youngsters were to survey oil lands and blaze a pipeline from the air. Ned Curtis, uncle of Betty Lou, owned the fields in partnership with Don Alvarado Casmetto. Menace soon appeared as Don's stepbrother Manuel joined forces with the villainous American Horace Raymore to seize control of the rich island. Operating from a vast jungle fortress equipped with modern weapons and fighting planes, they succeed in keeping Tommy and his friends in constant peril.

In chapter one, Tommy launched his plane from a dirigible to seek help as the airship was hit by lightning, cracked in half, and crashed into the ocean with Skeeter and Betty Lou aboard. [Editor's Note: John Fulton did the tremendous miniature dirigible sequence.] He returned in an amphibian to join Coast Guardsmen, summoned by a mysterious unseen flyer, in rescuing passengers and crew. Following weeks saw the boys' plane falling toward a roaring volcano and shot down over the enemy fortress. Then, they were trapped in a bombed hanger and imperiled by an underground flood.

Rescue was usually by the masked pilot of the "Eagle Plane," the unseen friend encountered earlier. His mysterious ship, camouflaged to suggest the great bird of prey, appeared out of an artificial cloud at vital moments, then released another smoke screen into which it disappeared by executing a barrel roll. The pilot's true identity was known to Don Alvarado and his daughter Inez, to Bill McGuire (an American reporter spying on Raymore's activities), and was suspected by most viewers who had examined the posters before entering the theater.

Repeaters from the first TAILSPIN TOMMY were expected to overlook a great deal. Tommy, for instance,

was now Clark Williams. He couldn't have objected convincingly to lovely Jean Rogers as the new Betty Lou, but it did seem unkind to change his mother sometime between the two serials. On the other hand, Noah Beery, Jr. was wisely recast as Skeeter and Charles Browne appeared again briefly as the boys' employer at the Three Point Airline. Grant Withers (Milt Howe the first time around) had his name on every poster published on the serial. Somehow, though, he never appeared in the picture. Alert viewers who had expected him to be revealed as the Eagle Pilot instead saw Western and serial regular Pat O'Brien unmask in chapter ten.

There had never been a good reason why he concealed his identity from Tommy and Skeeter (except, possibly, to justify the title of the serial) and, to climax chapter nine, he was forced to shoot them down when they attacked—thinking a Raymore thug was flying the mystery ship. The secret had become downright dangerous!

Such crash landings and bombings had ended most of the middle episodes. The story took a new direction to bring the serial to an action finish. After Manuel died in an explosion which destroyed the fortress, Raymore fled by sea with the Casmetto family fortune. A chase and speedboat wreck trapped the youngsters with Raymore and his gang on an island inhabited by cannibals. Captured by the natives, they were rescued at the last minute by the Eagle Pilot with Curtis, Casmetto, and their men. Raymore fled into the jungle to meet the fate which awaits all serial villains who flee into the jungle in the last chapter. In this case, a panther did the honors.

Other cast members: Bryant Washburn (Ned Curtis); Delphine Drew (Inez); Matthew Betz (Raymore); Pablo Alvarez (Don); Herbert Haywood (Manuel); James Burtis (McGuire); and Helen Brown (Mrs. Tompkins). Ray Taylor directed.

CHAPTER TITLES

1. **Wreck of the Dirigible**
2. **The Roaring Fire God**
3. **Hurled from the Skies**
4. **A Bolt from the Blue**
5. **The Torrent**
6. **The Crash in the Clouds**
7. **Flying Death**
8. **Crossed and Double Crossed**
9. **Wings of Disaster**
10. **Doomed in a Dungeon**
11. **Desperate Chances**
12. **The Last Stand**

KING OF THE REDHEADS

Republic Pictures called ADVENTURES OF RED RYDER (1940) "the greatest serial ever filmed!" They fibbed. But when they cast Don "Red" Barry in the title role, they did serial enthusiasts a great service. This gutsy redhead lent verve and vitality to Fred Harman's popular comic strip hero.

The plot of the RED RYDER serial will be covered in a subsequent chapter of TEMI. Right now, our concern is with Don "Red" Barry's revealing comments about the filming of the chapter-play. True, our questions are innocuous. The same can not be said for Mr. Barry's responses. Fortunately, they are very candid.

Q. How did you win the RED RYDER role? Was anybody else considered?

A. I didn't win it! It was forced on me. Mr. Yates (Herbert Yates, head of Republic Pictures) insisted I do it because it insured my being on-screen for twelve consecutive weeks. The reason I refused to do it is because I thought it bad casting. I felt myself too small for the stature of RED RYDER as conceived by the artist of the cartoon strip. My refusal conversation with Mr. Yates went something like this . . .

Barry: I won't do it, period!
Yates: I won't pay you, period!!
Barry: I'll do it, period!!!

No one else was ever considered for the role. Mr. Yates was a good friend, as well as my boss, and he knew he was doing me a definite favor. And he was right. In less than two years, I was the number one *action* star. Gene Autry and Roy Rogers were the two headliners in Westerns, but I was number three to them in the "Big Ten" (for seven years!). And all because of RED RYDER.

Q. What was it like working for two directors (Bill Witney and Jack English)?

A. Rough! Neither one wanted me for the part. They did everything they could to get someone else. So I feel the whole success of the effort should be attributed to them. I must confess that I just did not cooperate, because I did not want to do the serial.

Q. Who was your double for the dangerous stunts?

A. I did not have a double (my Texas vanity). This I did do willingly. And Witney and English were happy about that!—since they were sure I'd get hurt and have to be replaced. And on four different occasions, they *almost* got their wish.

Q. Where was the location work done?

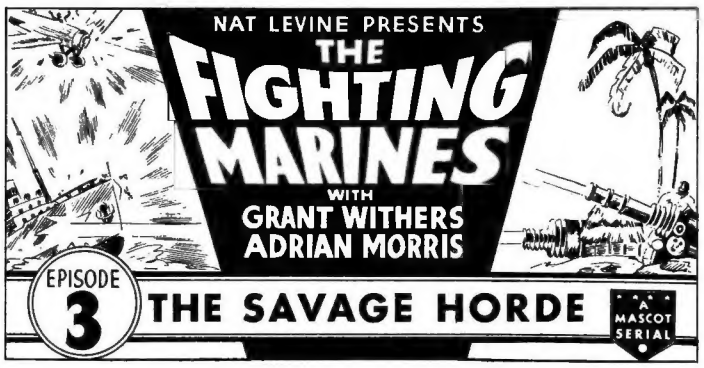
A. Ray Corrigan 's Ranch (now owned by Bob Hope) and Iverson's Ranch (soon to be subdivided). Both places about twenty miles from Studio City, Calif.

Q. Any comments on Noah Beery, Sr.?

A. How can you describe a man who loved his profession, and everyone in it? I shall always remember how he helped a brash, smart ass, young punk from Texas. I loved him and Noah Beery, Jr. Noah, Jr. (Pudge, as his friends call him) is every inch his father. (We have a pic out now from Universal, "The Cockeyed Cowboys of Calico Country.")

Q. What was your impression of the whole Republic set-up?

A. Republic was the university of all of today's TV productions. With the exception of a very few, the producers, directors, technicians, who got their start at Republic, are all in TV today. For example, at Universal Studios 80% of their top personnel got their start at Republic. It was a great studio and the largest in the Western field. Seven of the top ten Western stars were under contract there at the same time: Autry, Rogers, Barry, Bill Elliott, Allan Lane, Sunset Carson, Monte Hale (PLUS the great George "Gabby" Hayes). Of course, Republic's greatest contribution to today's stars is John Wayne. (I just finished working with him in "Rio Lobo" for Howard Hawks.) By now you must get the impression I loved working at Republic. *I did!*



(Continued from Page 53)

As with all serials, the initial episode established the complete story line and what followed was pretty much devoted to bringing the intrigue to a climax. In other words, you could jump from chapter one to chapter twelve without missing any point vital to the story. However, THE FIGHTING MARINES had a couple of exceptions to the rule: *Tiger Shark*, mysterious head of the modern-day pirates, is heard in chapter one, but not seen until the sixth episode; Douglas is the only major candidate for the master criminal role until chapter five, when Buchanan makes an appearance. Suspicion is then bounced between the two by having them spend considerable time going into phone booths then swishing the scene to Steinbeck in his secret laboratory taking instructions via phone from *Tiger Shark*. Now, back to the story . . .

As the explosives-laden ore truck comes hurtling down the tracks, Mac sees it and pushes Larry out of its path — a scant second before the blast occurs. Down the hill they roll, coming to rest (apparently unconscious) at the bottom.

Meanwhile, back in the cave, Metcalf tells Sgt. Schiller: "Well, leatherneck . . . you didn't save your Marine friends. That explosion down there blew them to pieces."

But Schiller is optimistic. "Nothing can stop the Marines from building a landing field on this island, and sooner or later you pirates will pay with your necks."

Later, Metcalf (via television) tells Steinbeck that "the two Marines have been disposed of."

"Good! I'll notify the *Tiger Shark* at once."

The scene jumps to The Douglas Transportation Company, and Douglas' stenographer as she answers the phone. ". . . I'm sorry, Mr. Douglas isn't in . . . no, you can reach him in Colonel Bennett's office, the Marine base."

At Colonel Bennett's, Bennett reaffirms his belief that the Halfway Island project will succeed. Douglas says: "It strikes me that you are uselessly sacrificing the lives of your men." Bennett denies this; reiterates his suspicion of Douglas, since he has a giant financial stake in a competitive "floating" airport. Frances Schiller arrives and is ushered in by Kota. She expresses anxiety over her brother. Douglas gets a phone call. "What's that? . . ." he asks into the phone. "Okay, I'll contact you later." He departs.

Back on the island, Larry and Mac regain consciousness . . . and follow some natives that are taking Schiller to their village. (Metcalf had turned him over to the natives for sacrificial use.) They attack and rescue Schiller. But Schiller is recaptured . . . and Larry and Mac flee into the jungle.

When the natives reach their village, Schiller is bound to a post inside a hut. Outside the hut, activity mounts to a crescendo. One group of natives starts beating on tom-toms; others collect firewood and build a pyre at the base of their "idol." Torch bearers come on the scene. *Then the dance of death begins . . . and the hut is set afire.*

Larry and Mac arrive. Larry creates a diversion by hurling spears at the sacred "idol." Both rush into the hut, but not before they are seen. Inside the hut, flames eat their way across the room. Schiller appears to be unconscious from the smoke. They try to untie him.

The natives surround the hut—bent upon making certain all three white men inside are devoured by the flames.

EPISODE 4/*MARK OF THE TIGER SHARK*

Conveniently, Larry spots a trap door (??!) in the hut, and he, Mac and the unconscious Schiller escape thru a tunnel into the jungle.

Later, in a mainland hospital, Schiller is assassinated. Left stamped on his neck is *Tiger Shark's* mark. The murderer and a cohort flee by car. Larry and Mac pursue on a motorcycle, with Larry transferring to the car of the heavies. But he's knocked from the car into the road, where he lies in the path of Mac on the 'cycle. Mac swerves to avoid hitting him. The machine goes out of control and crashes in a ditch, with Mac thrown on the ground and apparently killed! (*But Mac is only knocked out from his crash.*)

EPISODE 5/*THE GAUNTLET OF GRIEF*

Enter Mr. Buchanan of the Oriental Navigation Company. He tries to sell Bennett on letting his company build the airfield on Halfway Island, should the Marines fail to do so. When departing Bennett's residence, he offers Larry and Mac a ride in his car to Frances' apartment. They accept.

"Would you mind waiting in my car? I'll join you in a moment." So what does Buchanan do, but head for a telephone booth. He enters, closes the door and starts to dial.

The scene shifts to Steinbeck. "M 7-0 speaking. The men are at the warehouse now awaiting your orders . . . Yes, *Tiger Shark* . . ."

Next, Buchanan is seen coming out of the phone booth and joining Larry and Mac.

Later, Larry and Mac are attacked in Frances' apartment by Red and Pete, minions of *Tiger Shark*. Larry is knocked thru an open window—plunging to his death many stories below! (*He manages to grab the railing of a fire escape, stopping his fall.*)

EPISODE 6/*ROBBERS' ROOST*

Tiger Shark makes his first appearance (and sans dialogue) near the end of this chapter. And a grand entrance it is: via autogiro (the forerunner of the helicopter) on the roof of an old warehouse. Tiger Shark's face is hidden by a scarf across the lower part and goggles over his eyes. He is dressed in black flying togs (see pg. 52).

Larry and Mac are there to greet him. But *Tiger Shark* draws his gun and fires at Larry, who falls to the floor! (Larry *only fakes being shot—crawls behind some boxes.*)

EPISODE 7/*JUNGLE TERRORS*

Larry, Mac, a Captain Holmes, plus a full detachment of Marines, take off for Halfway Island. Metcalf is alerted and activates the "Gravity Gun." He watches the plane, thru his periscope, as it goes into a power dive.

Metcalf smiles. "Good work, men. Off contact."

Still observing thru the periscope, Metcalf watches the plane continue its power dive and apparent crash. Behind the "next week" title card a loud crash is heard.

EPISODE 8/*SIEGE OF HALFWAY ISLAND*

When this episode opens, there is no sight or sound of a crash. Metcalf's dialogue runs like so: "Oh, they got thru. Turn off the power." (Editor's Note: The audience definitely *got cheated!!!*)

About midway thru the chapter, Douglas (in his office) is caught by Buchanan listening in via a short-wave set to a Marine broadcast. Both men hurl accusations at the other that each stands to lose much if the Marine's succeed in building an airfield on Halfway Island.

The climax comes when Pedro sees Larry in a tree, fires and apparently hits him, then watches as he plunges from the tree to his doom. (*But Larry is not shot. He simply leaped from the tree to avoid Pedro's bullet.*)

EPISODE 9/*DEATH FROM THE SKY*

Tiger Shark makes his second appearance, this time at the cave on Halfway Island.

Metcalf asks: "Where's Ivan?"

And *Tiger Shark* responds: "Ivan has paid the penalty for defying the *Tiger Shark.* His body is in the treasure room, where I have just trapped the two Marines. I have come to make sure the Marines are wiped off this island. Prepare to attack the camp at once. We'll attend to the prisoners on your return."

Tiger Shark attacks in his plane the Marines' ammunition dump. Firing with machine guns, he sends the bullets zinging around the pit. Larry and Mac (who escaped from the treasure room) rush to cover the explosives-filled hole. But *Tiger Shark's* bullets hit the pit and the ammo is ignited—apparently destroying Mac and Larry. (*Mac and Larry leap to safety in the nick of time.)*

EPISODE 10/*WHEELS OF DESTRUCTION*

Villains Metcalf and Pedro are killed just prior to Mac and Larry returning to the mainland (on the tail of *Tiger Shark*, who has no difficulty eluding them).

Buchanan is arrested. But Miller and his cohorts, believing Buchanan to be their mysterious chief, engage in a fight with Mac and Larry, then escape with Buchanan in tow. The two Marines pursue the enemy car. Miller activates a device that unleashes a smoke screen from the exhaust pipe. Larry and Mac, driving blind, send their car over an embankment, rolling down the hill to a crashing stop! (*They are conveniently thrown from their car.*)

EPISODE 11/*BEHIND THE MASK*

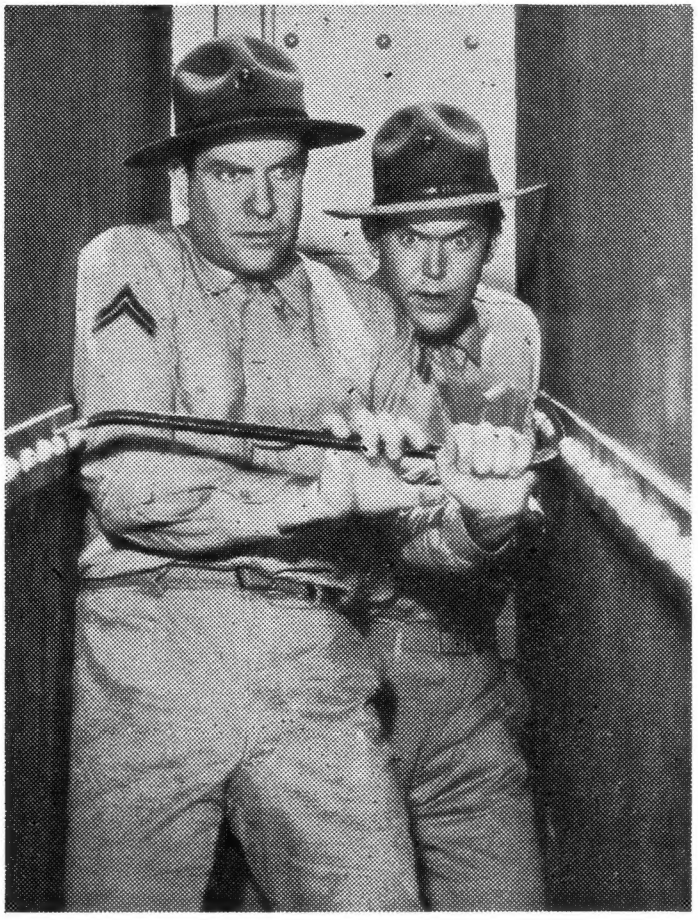
Buchanan is seized . . . and, at Col. Bennett's office, he asseverates his innocence. He only went with the thugs so he could get to their leader. Also present in the room is Douglas.

Buchanan suddenly announces he saw the autogiro land (at the airport, some time in the past) and the pilot removed his goggles for a moment. "The *Tiger Shark* is . . ." *A shot rings out!!!!*

Douglas jumps thru the window, but Larry catches him. He professes that he was chasing the *Tiger Shark,* whom he saw disappear around the side of the building, and shows where the murder weapon was dropped. A check of the serial number reveals that the gun belongs to Col. Bennett! Bennett calls in Kota and tells him to take Larry with him and see if his revolver is still in his quarters.

Later, the *Tiger Shark* climbs out of the window of one of the Marine barracks. Larry (joined by Mac) pursues him. An auto chase leads to an old warehouse and Steinbeck's laboratory.

Tiger Shark lures the two Marines into a corridor. Doors at each end are closed. Then the walls are set in motion and slowly inch together—apparently crushing Larry and Mac. (*The two Marines find a steel crowbar and manage to stop the closing walls.*)



EPISODE 12/*TWO AGAINST THE HORDE*

Tiger Shark takes off for Halfway Island with Larry and Mac in close pursuit. At the cave, where the pirates' plunder is stored, they meet up with *Tiger Shark.* A fight ensues. During the melee, the Marines pull the mask from *Tiger Shark's* face. "Kota!!!" they exclaim in unison. Then Mac adds, "So the Colonel's mess boy turns out to be the *Tiger Shark!*"

Suffice to say *Tiger Shark* winds up a victim of his own treachery when a can of nitroglycerine blows up burying him in the resulting cave-in.

To the stirring strains of *Semper Fidelis*, the serial comes to THE END. And so does Mascot Pictures.

(Continued from Page 57)

CHAPTER FIVE

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER

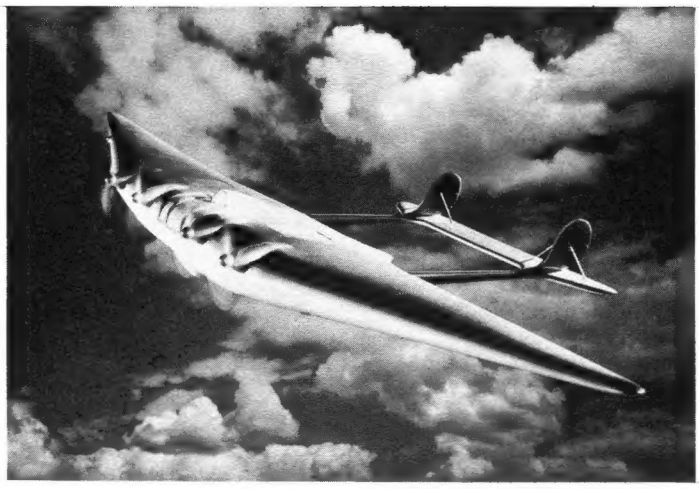
The most obvious escape route from the doomed robot plane for Dick and Junior is via parachute. Once they're on the ground, Steve lands his aircraft and joins them.

"I want to get to that wreckage and plant the imitation necklace before *The Spider's* men get there," Tracy asserts.

*

At the Beechwood Hotel, one of the numerous hideouts of the Spider Ring, Moloch and *The Lame One* await word from Gordon.

"Your cat, Moloch, shows more intelligence than many humans."



"Sometimes I am tempted to try another experiment."

"And what is that?"

"Transplanting the brain of a cat into a human. It would be even more interesting than the operation I performed on Gordon Tracy."

"Perhaps someday you can try that on his brother, Dick Tracy. He should make an even greater criminal."

Both are summoned to the radio room to hear Gordon's report.

"The plane with the Mogra necklace crashed just off Kendall Road. Impossible to land *(The Wing)* there."

The Lame One believes the necklace he already possesses is worthless and the real one is on the plane. The reverse is the truth, however. He sends four of his henchmen (via automobile) to retrieve the jewelry.

*

DICK TRACY IN THE CAMP OF THE ENEMY. (Left to Right) *Moloch* (John Piccori); *Burke* (Buddy Roosevelt); *Gordon* (Carleton Young); *Dick* (Ralph Byrd); henchman (Loren Reibe); another henchman (?); and *The Lame One.*

Dick Tracy follows *The Lame One's* minions back to the Beechwood after they recover the necklace. It is there that Dick is captured by Gordon and he has his first face-to-face encounter with *The Lame One.*

Strangely, *The Lame One* and Moloch do not have a single word of dialogue during the entire sequence. All conversation is between Gordon and Dick, whom Dick *does not* recognize as his brother.

"Why were you so anxious to get this imitation . . . or were you trying to be very clever and fool us . . ."

"I not only tried . . . I did fool you."

"A lot of good it did you."

"I wouldn't be too sure of that." Dick steps back, holding a small bottle in his hand. "Nitroglycerine, gentlemen!" (In reality, it is castor oil??!!) He exits thru the window and takes to the roof.

From below, Gordon takes aim and shoots his brother. Dick is hit, and hurtles from the roof to the ground.

CHAPTER SIX

DANGEROUS WATERS

Dick Tracy's fall is broken by a clump of bushes. Apparently he is not wounded.

Gordon instructs one of the heavies to: "Tell Moloch and *The Lame One* that *The Wing* is ready. I'll be waiting for them."

Watching *The Wing* climb skyward, Dick says: *"The Spider's* taking off in *The Wing!"*

[Editor's Note: You would think Gordon and Dick were discussing two totally different individuals. Not so.]

The next nefarious scheme of *The Lame One* is to obtain the formula for Nickolanium (a new and secret alloy). This he is successful in stealing. Then he prepares to hand it over (for a price) to an unspecified foreign government that is sending a submarine to pick it up.

The rendezvous is a supposedly deserted warehouse on the waterfront—yet another den for *The Lame One's* cutthroats. Connected to the warehouse is a cheap restaurant called "Whitey's."

Dick has little difficulty in following the clues that eventually lead him to Whitey's. There, just as the formula is going to be handed over to the foreign power representative (Killian), Dick Tracy grabs it from Gordon. A fight ensues.

Killian panics and climbs into the sub. Someone yells, "Prepare to submerge . . . submerge!"

The sub starts moving . . . and Dick gets his foot caught in the loop of one of the mooring ropes. He falls into the water. The rope, attached to the sub, drags him along. *The submarine submerges!*

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE GHOST TOWN MYSTERY

Dick Tracy manages to untangle his foot from the rope.

His next confrontation with the Spider Ring is over half-a-million dollars in speciman gold. Its hiding place is known only to "Death Valley Johnny," an old prospector.

Unfortunately, Johnny draws a map giving the location . . . and Gordon manages to obtain it.

[Editor's Note: This was an inane episode, and certainly not up to any of the chapters that preceded or proceeded. But the climax, while not spectacular, was indeed suspenseful.]

While attempting to find Johnny's gold hoard, Dick falls into a mine shaft. One of the heavies looks down into the shaft, and seeing Tracy splashing around, brags: "Here's one shot I sure won't miss." *He commences firing!*

CHAPTER EIGHT

BATTLE IN THE CLOUDS

"Neither will I!" says Steve (and the heavy never does manage to fire off a single shot at the trapped Dick Tracy!).

The succeeding adventure took two episodes to bring to a satisfactory conclusion. *The Lame One* wants the plans for the motors used in a super-speed plane. That is, he wants them for the monocle-wearing Durston.

Gordon is summoned. *The Lame One* tells him, "If we fail to get the secret of Clayton's new plane, our negotiations with Durston's government will come to nothing. Can you supply him with those plans?"

"I can do better than that. I'll deliver the plane itself."

*

Interestingly, Clayton's daughter (Betty) is the test pilot for the new craft, capable of traveling at the amazing speed of 700 m.p.h.

Dick Tracy is invited to go along for the final test flight. On the flight, a stowaway attempts to hijack the craft, but Dick is successful in overpowering him.

Thwarted, Gordon sets about kidnaping Clayton and his plans. He is taken to the Beechwood Hotel in Gara Bow Pass. [Editor's Note: Why *The Lame One* didn't abandon this hideout is difficult to comprehend.]

Mud on Steve's suit is the clue that tells Tracy where Clayton is being held (??!!). He uses the speed plane to get there.

Clayton and his plans are rescued by Tracy. They take off in the speed plane, but *The Wing* is quickly at their heels.

Gordon, aboard *The Wing:* "Blast them out of the sky!"

The speed plane is hit again and again. It goes into a nose dive . . . *explodes!!!*

CHAPTER NINE

THE STRATOSPHERE ADVENTURE

Tracy to Clayton: "We'll have to bail out." There is only one parachute. Dick dons it, and Clayton holds on to him. The chute carries them gradually toward earth.

[Editor's Note: The next sequence *should* have been the climax for the preceding episode.]

Gordon: "We'll make them wish their plane had ended it quickly for 'em." *The Wing* zeros in on the hapless Tracy and Clayton.

But Steve enters the scene with his machine gun blazing. Gordon scares. "Climb quickly. Get out of the range of that machine gun." Then he proceeds to radio *The Lame One.*

"Go ahead, Gordon," *The Lame One* says.

"The speed plane crashed at Drury Field, but I think the motors might be salvaged."

"Recover them, Gordon, then contact Durston's zeppelin and put the motors aboard in midair."

Durston interrupts: "I must have those motors at any cost. The dirigible is taking me back to my country today. I will contact it at once, and wait for word where to meet you."

The Wing descends in Drury Field and the motors are retrieved. Just as the last of the crew is about to re-enter *The Wing,* Dick Tracy jumps up from behind some bushes and assails one of the men. He knocks him out. . .

. . . then dresses in his clothes, including his helmet and goggles. [*Overwhelmed is actor Roy Barcroft!!*]

Gordon, aboard *The Wing*: "Rise to 35,000. We meet the zeppelin above the channel off San Francisco."

The Wing is positioned over the dirigible while the motors are lowered into its top. Dick assists with the transfer, then remains behind in the dirigible when Gordon orders the crew to "cut loose."

Dick confronts Durston and three officers in the control room.

"Sorry to disappoint you, gentlemen. I don't think my government wants these motors to leave the U.S. Head back to the mainland."

Steve and Clayton are in a plane close behind the airship, both unaware that Tracy is aboard.

"They won't get away this time!" exclaims Steve as he pulls the machine gun trigger. The bullets rip holes in the dirigible . . . then the motor is set ablaze.

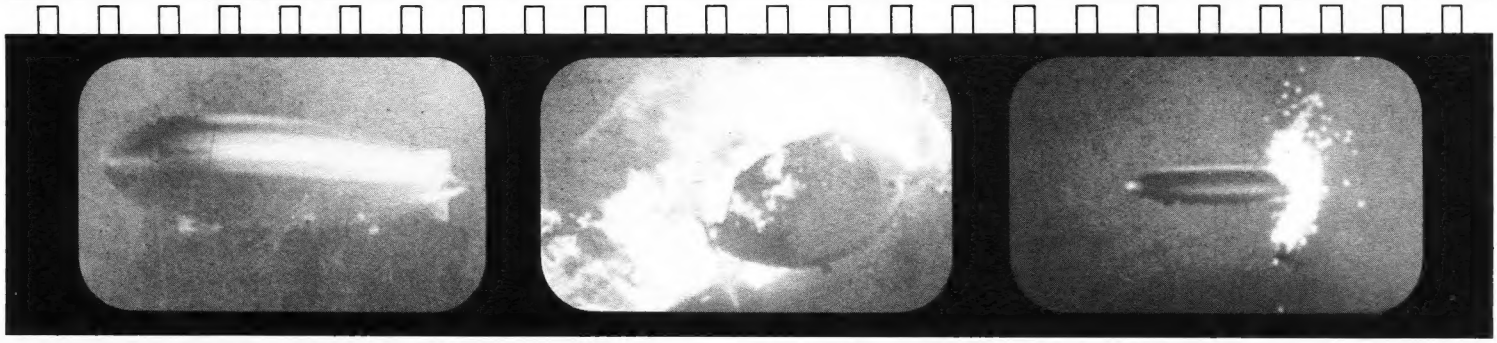
Durston panics. "A parachute! Where can I get a parachute?!!"

The Commander of the dirigible hits Tracy over the head, rendering him unconscious.

Durston finds a parachute and starts to leave the falling dirigible. Tracy tries to rise, falls backward again.

The burning dirigible hits the ground and explodes!

The actor who portrayed good guy *Cmdr. Crane* in chapter four ALSO enacted the commander of the "enemy" dirigible five episodes later (and in the *same* uniform with identical markings—tho he added a foreign accent to "fool" the novices).



ADVENTURES OF REX AND RINTY (Mascot, '35) had a thin plot, but some interesting twists—like using the sport of polo as a backdrop.

The 12 chapters concerned several factions attempting to get possession of Rex, a black Arabian stallion. He is kidnaped from the Island of Sujan by Wheeler (Wheeler Oakman) and Mitchell (Al Bridge), and taken to the States. Ruler of the Sujanese is Tanaga (Mischa Auer), who orders Pasha (Pedro Regas) to retrieve the horse. However, Crawford (Harry Woods) also has covetous eyes for the god-horse. Foiling the machinations of the heavies are Frank Bradley (Kane Richmond), Dorothy Bruce (Norma Taylor), and Jensen (Smiley Burnette). Ralph Byrd as Jerry Mortan, a forest ranger, made his serial debut in episodes five and six.

One climax that showed some logic came at the end of the 10th episode. As Pasha and Bradley walk up the (ship's) gangplank, the heavies take advantage of the steamer whistle (*"The Siren of Death"*) to shield the sound of their guns whilst firing at them.

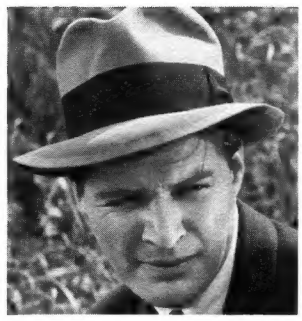
CHAPTER TITLES

1. **The God Horse of Sujan**
2. **Sport of Kings**
3. **Fangs of Flame**
4. **Homeward Bound**
5. **Babes in the Woods**
6. **Dead Man's Tale**
7. **End of the Road**
8. **A Dog's Devotion**
9. **The Stranger's Recall**
10. **The Siren of Death**
11. **New Gods for Old**
12. **Primitive Justice**

CHAPTER 13

Necrology of Serial Personalities who, sad to say, are no longer with us.

Harry Cording (1954) — A particular favorite of this editor in KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED [see pg. 34]. Also did nicely in OVERLAND MAIL ('42), tho listed 10th in the cast. Teamed-up with Martin Kosleck in THE GREAT ALASKAN MYSTERY ('44) to play a couple of subversive agents.



Robert Kent (1955) — Made one serial for each of the "big" studios, with never an encore: THE PHANTOM CREEPS (Univ.-'39); WHO'S GUILTY (Col.-'45); and, THE PHANTOM RIDER (Rep.-'46). He was the original *King of the Royal Mounted* in a full length movie for 20th-Fox in '36.

Richard Cramer (1960) — Oh, he was a mean one! Portrait shot is from THE RED RIDER ('34). He portrayed a character called *Joe Portuguese*, who made life hell for Buck Jones and Grant Withers.

Alan Bridge (1957) — Lent villainous support to many serials. In scene below, Rin-Tin-Tin, Jr. seems to be getting the best of him in ADVENTURES OF REX & RINTY ('35). Not really. Harry Woods shoots him dead in chapter six.

THOSE ENDURING MATINEE FANS

Without serial FANS, there would be no TEMI. So it is only fair to give them an opportunity to speak out. Unfair is that space limitations necessarily mean abbreviating (in some cases omitting) the many fine letters received.

ERRATUM & OTHER THINGS

You quoted me as saying "originally all 17 of *Fu Manchu's* speechless dacoits were to be devoid (of a mouth)." What I said was that just *Loki* (John Merton) was to be mouthless.

THE MASKED MARVEL recalled two memories of Johnny Arthur (pg. 58): As Darla Hood's long-suffering father in the "Our Gang" series (favorite recollections, poor Arthur trying to referee a dispute between the kids over who was stronger in the comic strips - *Flash Gordon or Tarzan*); and, as Sukiyake (?) in Hal Roach's series of spoofs on the three human monsters of W.W. II (Hirohito, Hitler and Mussolini).

Knowing that you "dig" fun bits of dialogue, here's a few that should bring a smile:

"I do not expect, Mr. Scott . . . *I command!*" Eduardo Ciannelli to C. Montague Shaw in MYSTERIOUS DR. SATAN.

"Now the 'homicidal maniac' is going to make his own plans!" Lionel Atwill in CAPTAIN AMERICA.

"For the Cause!" The sieg-heil type salute used in KING OF THE TEXAS RANGERS by Neil Hamilton and Robert O. Davis. (We weren't at war with Germany, yet.)

Eric Hoffman
Reseda, Calif.

Editor's Note: Mr. Hoffman gave us the bit about Loki over the phone; sadly, we misinterpreted (on pg. 59) what he said.

* * *

KNOX MANNING

Even more memorable than the forewards for THE IRON CLAW (pg. 59), were the lead-ins by Knox Manning for the Sherlock Holmes radio shows during the early '40s. His voice was clear and definitive as he announced each week: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes . . . with Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson." After being just as definitive about Bromo-Quinine Cold Tablets, Manning led the radio listener thru fog-filled London streets to 221 B Baker Street, where Dr. Watson invited every listener into the sanctum of Holmes to hear another adventure of the master detective. In his book "The Great Radio Heroes" ('67), Jim Harmon describes the Holmes programs in some detail (Chapter 8).

Edward Lauterbach
Lafayette, Indiana

Editor's Note: Jim Harmon's newest tome, just out, is "The Great Radio Comedians" published by Doubleday. It's the greatest!

THE MASKED MARVEL

Republic used David Bacon as THE MASKED MARVEL as he physically resembled stuntman Tom Steele more than Bill Healy did. As you know, Tom Steele did all of the work behind the mask, but the voice was dubbed by someone else. The four actors who played the investigators really had very little to do. Dale Van Sickle doubled Bill Healy in the fight scenes and Steele doubled David Bacon even in scenes without the mask.

Charles McCleary
L.A., Calif.

Tom Steele *was* THE MASKED MARVEL. And not only did the lean stuntman play *Marvel*, but various other hired thugs in that serial. For some weird reason that even Tom has no answer for he received absolutely no credit. The mask Tom wore was made from a mold of his face and could not have fit Bacon's face properly.

Don Glut
Hollywood, Calif.

There are interesting sidelights to some of the actors that appeared in THE MASKED MARVEL. Louise Currie, the only female in the cast, for many years has operated an interior decorators shop in Beverly Hills; William Forrest recently played a doctor in an NBC daytime soap opera; Anthony Warde is reported to own and operate a men's clothing store in San Fernando Valley.

Jerry Mezerow
Placentia, Calif.

We noted with some interest your comments on the sequence stills (pg. 49). This scene, which originally appeared in THE MASKED MARVEL, has long been one of our favorite examples of the excellent miniatures done by Howard Lydecker. Like you, we believed for some time that Lydecker had, indeed, goofed since it appears on the screen that the truck's back wheels and axle fall off as it goes thru the wall, but are back on again when the truck hits the water. However, judging from the stills in TEMI, it does not appear to us to be quite what happens. The wheels and axle do come off, but what appears to be the rear axle and wheels on the truck at landing is apparently a middle axle. A truck that size could not possibly be driven without wheels further back from the ones which we see in the fifth still. Having viewed the scene in the original film several times, we would judge from the way in which the wheels fall that they should land out of the camera's view just below the bottom of the frame.

The only goof of that sort that we can remember in Howard Lydecker's career is in a scene from THE PURPLE MONSTER STRIKES ('45). A flaming truck (loaded with rocket fuel) rolls back down a mountain road and smashes into Dennis Moore's car, but the two vehicles explode just a split second before they collide!

Dan Scapperotti, N.Y.C.
David E. Carter, Wash., D.C.

DETECTIVES LLOYD & TRACY

Several years ago I had the dubious pleasure of watching a chapter of DETECTIVE LLOYD. My only comment is that it's no wonder Mutual went out of business (pg. 59). A real turkey! But, for some reason, I taped the opening foreward and here it is for whatever historical value it may be to Universal followers: "Friends, in chapter two of this exciting story of DETECTIVE LLOYD of the C.I.D. entitled "*The Panther Strikes,*" you learned that Giles Wade, known as the Panther, forced Chester Dunn into a plot to steal from his uncle, Randall Hale, the priceless King Tutankhamen amulet. (It sounds as tho he says "omelet.") Hale's niece, Diana Brooks, arriving from Montreal to live with her uncle . . . was kidnaped by Wade and Sybil Craig, one of his band of crooks, installed as Diana, in Hale's home. Never having seen Diana, Hale welcomed Sybil as his niece. Sybil learns the combination of the safe and admits the Panther's gang to the manor."

The recap was delivered by a young, veddy British chap sitting behind a desk. There were no dubbed sound effects, the quality of the sound was similar to the early Mascots (loud, clunking footsteps, for instance) and there was no music, not even for the main title.

If memory serves, the resolution of chapter one of DICK TRACY is not exactly a cheat (pg. 45). What actually happened is that Tracy is more-or-less pinned beneath some falling girders (they would have crushed him had they fallen in a more even pattern). But before he can wriggle from underneath them, a crane and its load of girders, mounted atop one of the suspension arches, collapses toward him from the vibrations of the sonic device in *The Wing*. In chapter two, the crane and its girders crash onto a bridge railing, sparing our hero.

Woody Langley
Studio City, Calif.

* * *

ENIGMA

What do you know about Arvon Dale? He appeared in PERILS OF NYOKA and KING OF THE MOUNTIES, and his name has always intrigued me.

W.L. Seeley
Pointe Claire, Quebec

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THAT ENDURING "MATINEE IDOLS" EDITOR

This chapter of TEMI winds up our first year. It was to have been 16 pages, but illness and other alibis nixed that plan. However, chapter seven will definitely be 16 pages. Included will be Universal's CALL OF THE SAVAGE and THE ROARING WEST, plus four independently produced serials, to finish out "The Incipient Year" (1935). And we'll start "The Ten Wonderful Years" ('36-'45) *** The "Detroit Triple Fan Fair" will be held Sept. 4 thru 7. Serials (including FIGHTING DEVIL DOGS, MASKED MARVEL, FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE, others) will be shown. If attending, write Bob Brosch, 14845 Anne, Detroit, Michigan 48101 for complete details *** We are saving Bob Tetzloff's promised cover illustration for the next chapter *** Your editor is looking for a copy of "Silver Screen" (October, '41) and a still showing the masked *Rattler* in MYSTERY MOUNTAIN. Can you help? *** Committee for the '71 *Southwesterncon* is interested in contacting collectors and/or rental agencies who have *good* prints of serials (especially SPY SMASHER, all the DICK TRACYs, DRUMS OF FU MANCHU, DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE) as well as features like "Things to Come" and "Thief of Bagdad." Write Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006 *** If you're a Western "buff" then part with $2.00 and subscribe for a year to WILD WEST STARS. Current issue (#4) is 100% Republic Westerns, and includes an extensive tribute to Roy Barcroft. Tabloid size, 16 pages. Write Jim Ward, Route 8, Thorngrove Pike, Knoxville, Tenn. 37914 *** Do you have nostalgia? Then visit Milo Holt's "Memory Mobile". Old-time silent and sound movies - radio programs of the '30s and '40s. NO CHARGE! Open nights and weekends. Located 4½ miles East of Siler City, N.C., on Hwy 64 beside Collins Pond *** Since the ladies and their tormentors "took over" the lead story on page 61, it was only fair to allot the cameo portraits in the masthead to heroes: Tom Steele (stunting for David Bacon all the way thru the serial) as THE MASKED MARVEL and Dave O'Brien in the guise of CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT *** Columbia serials have, to date, received short shift in TEMI. That will be rectified in coming chapters. One of their early favorites was SECRET OF TREASURE ISLAND ('38) featuring, as antagonists, hero Don Terry (left) and villain Walter Miller.

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